

# Kids Answers



## Do Mice Really Love Cheese?

DO YOU REALLY  
KNOW YOUR  
ANIMAL FACTS?  
TIME TO DO  
SOME MYTH-  
BUSTING!



### CREATED CREATURE

Take to the skies  
with a bald eagle.



### AWESOME ACTIVITIES

Slither through a maze, crack  
the codes, and more!



### WANDERS IN CREATION

Andy and Eva learn a lesson  
while exploring ancient ruins.





### Adventure In the Ruins

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## Kids Answers

*Kids Answers* helps grade-school readers build a biblical worldview beginning with Genesis 1–11 as they discover truth about God's Word and God's world.

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## Meow Many?

How many cats does it take to make a *clutter*? The answer is three or more. A group of cats can also be called a *pounce*—appropriate for these feisty felines!



## You Name It!

By Kaitlyn Iocco

**GOD CREATED** animals during creation week, around 6,000 years ago. He gave the first man, Adam, the job of naming all the animals (Genesis 2:19–20). Since then, humans have come up with all kinds of creative names for animals and groups of animals. Naming animals is one way humans have dominion over creation as God commanded.

You've probably heard of a herd of horses, a flock of sheep, or a pack of wolves. But some animal groups have names that are unusual, and others are even kind of goofy.







## The Very Hungry Caterpillars

For such tiny creatures, caterpillars have a mighty name for their collections. A caterpillar *army* has one mission: eat! Most caterpillars eat plants, especially leaves. They need to store up as much protein from their food as possible to prepare for their transformation into butterflies.



## Crow Way!

A group of crows is called a *murder*. This name comes from old folk tales and superstitions. But crows aren't scary. Yes, they have been affected by the fall (Genesis 3) like the rest of the world. But crows are still God's unique creations, and their design glorifies their Creator.

*Your turn! Pick an animal. What would you name a group of them? Why?*



## Gator Gathering

A group of people meeting in church isn't the only *congregation*. Groups of alligators are also called congregations. Adult alligators can be solitary (meaning they prefer to be alone). But depending on age and gender, they can hang out in huge groups. They are known to gather during breeding season in May and June.

## WACKLE! CACKLE!

A hyena's bark sounds like a laugh. It's fitting that a group of hyenas is often called a *cackle*! Spotted hyenas like to be with others. They live in large groups that can have up to 100 members.

## Eye Spy

Can you find all 5 cheeses hidden in this magazine?





# CREATED CREATURE

## Winging It

by Harriet E. Michael &  
Annette G. Teepe

**DURING** creation  
week, about  
6,000 years ago,

God created birds to fill the air. Today, few  
birds fly through the air as majestically  
as the bald eagle. Isaiah 40:31 tells us that  
those who wait on the Lord will renew their  
strength and will soar on wings like eagles.  
God used eagles as an example of soaring  
for a reason—they are really good at it!







(continued on next page) ➤



## ➤ Wonderful Wings

Bald eagles have an impressive wingspan that ranges from six to eight feet. Female bald eagles have an even larger wingspan than males. Bald eagles are excellent fliers and reach speeds of 20–40 miles per hour in normal flight and up to 100 miles per hour when diving to capture prey. They can fly high in the sky—up to 10,000 feet or more.

### Eagle Elevator

Bald eagles have strong wings that can continuously flap in flight, but they have a better way to travel and save energy. Because warm air is lighter than cold air, warm air rises. Eagles ride currents of warm air, called thermals, like elevators to climb high in the sky without even flapping their wings. After reaching a high altitude, they glide from thermal to thermal to go the greatest distance with the least energy.

### Eagle Eye

Eagles find their food from the sky by scanning the ground for small animals. An eagle can see in front and to the side at the same time. In fact, eagles can see four to five times better than humans. They can spot a rabbit from three miles away and can see another eagle soaring in the sky nearly 50 miles away!

## Making a Splash

Eagles also eat fish they spot while flying above a lake or river. They use their sharp talons to snatch fish right out of the water. The rough undersides of their feet help keep the fish from escaping their grasp. Sometimes, when a fish is too heavy for an eagle to carry in flight, the eagle will tow it to shore by using its wings to paddle. Eagles have thick down (soft feathers), allowing them to float well.

## Flight School

Adult bald eagles build impressive nests to lay eggs and hatch their chicks. These nests may be five to six feet around and up to four feet tall.

Eagles mate for life and return to the same nesting place year after year. They lay one to three eggs a year. Both the male and female take turns incubating (sitting on) the eggs while the other parent hunts for food or looks for more materials to maintain the nest.

Eagle chicks, or eaglets, have all their feathers when they're 8–14 weeks old. They learn to fly at three months old. But before they try flying, they exercise their wings by jumping up and down inside the nest. Then they practice short take-offs and landing on and around the nest before they actually fly.

## The Majestic Maker

A bald eagle is breathtaking to see as it spreads its wings and flies. The majesty of the bald eagle reflects the majesty of the One who created the eagle to soar.







## Murphy and the Rock

**IN 2023**, a male bald eagle named Murphy became an overnight social media sensation. Murphy has lived at the World Bird Sanctuary in Missouri since an injury left him unable to fly as a young bird.

Murphy couldn't fly and did not have a female partner to lay eggs. But God gave eagles an innate desire to form nests and protect their young. So, Murphy found a rock, built a nest on the ground, and tried to incubate this very hard "egg."

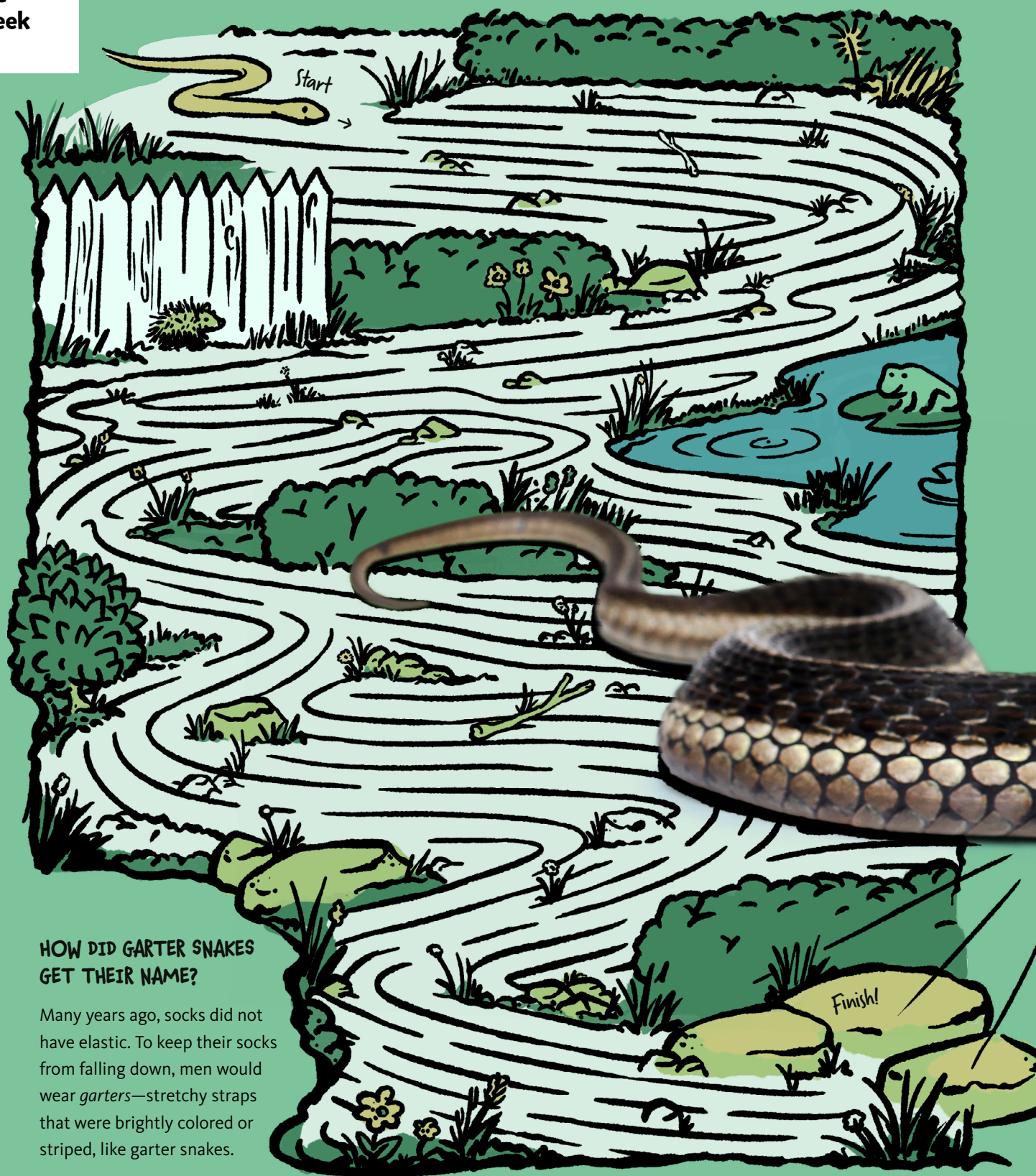
One day, the sanctuary received an eaglet whose nest had been destroyed by high winds. The sanctuary staff hoped Murphy would foster the baby bird.

At first, they placed the eaglet in a protective box in Murphy's enclosure. Murphy walked around the box appearing concerned. When the staff opened the box, Murphy shared his fish with the eaglet almost right away and bonded with the chick. Months later, the grown eaglet took off back into the wild.

### FUN FACTS

- » *The oldest recorded wild bald eagle was at least 38 years old.*
- » *Bald eagles build the largest tree nests of any birds. One nest was over 9 feet wide and over 20 feet deep!*
- » *Bald eagles aren't really bald—they just have white feathers on their head and also on their tails. They develop these feathers around four to six years old.*
- » *The bald eagle has been a national symbol for the US since the 1700s. But it didn't officially become our national bird until December 2024.*
- » *Bald eagles are part of the hawk kind.*
- » *Some bald eagles build their nests on the ground.*





### HOW DID GARTER SNAKES GET THEIR NAME?

Many years ago, socks did not have elastic. To keep their socks from falling down, men would wear *garters*—stretchy straps that were brightly colored or striped, like garter snakes.



# Garters in the Garden

**GARTER SNAKES** are one of the most common snakes in North America. Have you ever seen one of these slithery creatures in your mom's garden? If so, you've got a good eye! God gave some animals camouflage (special colors and patterns) to survive in our fallen world.

Garter snakes usually have yellow stripes down their backs. Sometimes they have blotches. The blotches help camouflage the snake when it is sitting still. The stripes help a garter snake appear still even when it is slithering through the grass. Often when you try to catch a garter snake, it has already escaped!

Like other reptiles, garter snakes are cold-blooded. They need a source of heat—like the sun—to warm their bodies. During sunny days, you might spot a garter snake sunbathing on a rock.

Garter snakes eat insects, rodents, earthworms, frogs, and even other small snakes. But snakes didn't always eat other animals. After Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the garden of Eden, sin and death entered the world. Creatures began hunting and eating each other. But someday, God will make a new heavens and earth with no more death—and I can't wait to see what creation will look like then!



I'm **Peter Schriemer**! As a wildlife educator and TV host, I get excited about tracking down God's creatures! Join my adventures on my Answers TV show *Hike & Seek*.

## Fun Facts

- » Garter snakes give birth to live young instead of laying eggs like most other snakes.
- » Garter snakes usually grow between 18 and 26 inches long.
- » From October to April, garter snakes gather in groups of hundreds (sometimes thousands) for *brumation* (the reptile version of hibernation) in underground dens.
- » Sometimes they are called garden snakes.





## SINK OR FLOAT

# Salty Seas and Density

Some scientists estimate that if we could take all the salt from the oceans and spread it in an even pile across the surface of the entire earth, it would form a layer more than 500 feet deep!

The saltiness in the water is caused from minerals (including sodium chloride, which we call table salt) entering the ocean through runoff. Runoff is rainwater that is not absorbed into the ground but instead flows over land and into streams and rivers. As it moves over the ground, it dissolves (breaks up) the minerals in the rocks and soil. When the rivers flow into earth's oceans, all that salt is emptied into the sea.



I'm **Mr P.**, the host of *Unlocking Science* on Answers TV. Let's have some fun as we investigate God's amazing creation.

Ocean water can also gather salt if it seeps in through the ocean floor, where it is heated by magma (hot, liquid rock). The hot water dissolves minerals from rock in the oceanic crust. Hydrothermal (hi-drow-THUR-mul) vents on the ocean floor eventually push the hot, salty water back into the ocean.

## Let's do it!

### What You'll Need

- Four clear 8 oz. cups
- Water
- 2 Tablespoons salt
- 2 Tablespoons sugar
- 2 Tablespoons baking soda
- Tape
- Marker
- Blueberries, small grapes, or raw eggs





## Let's Experiment!

You may have noticed that it's much easier to float in the ocean than in a swimming pool. Why? Salt! Saltwater has a higher density than freshwater, which means the same amount is heavier, so things that would normally sink can float. Let's experiment with density!

### What to Do

- Fill your cups about three-fourths full of water.
- Mix salt into one cup, sugar into the second cup, and baking soda into the third cup. There should be enough that you can see a little extra on the bottom of each cup. The fourth cup should be plain water. Label your cups with the tape and marker.
- Drop an egg or a handful of blueberries or grapes in each cup and observe what happens.

### Are Salty Seas Proof of Creation?

The amount of salt in the seas is always growing. If the earth were billions of years old, as evolutionists believe, the ocean should be much saltier than it is today. In fact, the seas would be too salty for any creature to survive. But the oceans are swimming with life!

Instead, we know that God created the oceans on day three of creation week, about 6,000 years ago.

### Think about it

- In which cup(s) did your objects float? In which cup(s) did your objects sink?
- Based on your answer to the first question, which types of water had high densities?

### Fun Facts

- » The earth is made of 70% water. Around 97% of that water is saltwater.
- » Many fish have an organ called a swim bladder. They can inflate or deflate the bladder to rise or sink in the water.
- » The Dead Sea in the Middle East is so salty that it is impossible for a person to sink in it.









# Achoo!

**WHAT MAKES YOU SNEEZE** and your eyes water? Maybe it's pollen in the air, dander from a pet, or something you eat.

Why do certain things make us sneezy or itchy?

Your immune system is responsible for finding and getting rid of harmful substances that enter your body. Allergies are caused by *allergens*, or something that makes your immune system go into overdrive. Allergens can be different for everyone—that's why you might have a friend who is allergic to peanuts while you are not.

When your immune system encounters an allergen, it makes a protein called immunoglobulin (uh-myoo-no-GLAH-byuh-lun) E antibodies, which fight off harmful substances. Immunoglobulin E signals your body to get rid of the allergen. These signals cause your body to release chemicals called histamines (HIH-stuh-meens) that trigger allergy symptoms like itching, sneezing, watery eyes, a stuffy nose, and even swelling.

Before Adam and Eve disobeyed God, their bodies worked perfectly, and their environment wasn't harmful. But because our world is now broken by sin, sometimes we get a little sneezy!

Our bodies sometimes react too strongly (overact) to allergens, making us feel awful. But God has allowed humans to develop medicines called antihistamines. *Anti* means "against," so these medicines work against the overacting histamine chemicals that make you sneeze, itch, and swell. What a relief!





Even before they're born, babies will usually suck one thumb or the other. Some scientists believe the hand they use determines whether the baby will be right- or left-handed after birth.



There are more left-handed boys than girls.

## Lefty or Righty?

**DO YOU** write with your right hand? Throw a ball with your left? Or perhaps you are part of the 1% of people who are ambidextrous (am-buh-DEK-struss) and can use both hands equally well.

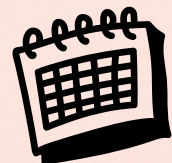
Studies show that around 90% of people are righties (right-handed), while only about 10% are lefties (left-handed).

When scientists first started studying this trait, they thought a single gene (a unit of DNA that helps determine your traits) gives us our right- or left-handedness. But now scientists believe that up to 40 genes have a hand in our handedness.

Our genes cause other things about us, too. The tone of our skin, eye or hair color, and even our blood type are all caused by genetics. But no matter your hair color, skin tone, or hand you use, we are all descendants of Adam and Eve. Righties or lefties, we are fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27).



Did you know lefties are mentioned in the Bible? One of the judges of Israel was left-handed (Judges 3:15). Later in Judges, a group of 700 left-handed men from the tribe of Benjamin used sling shots in battle (Judges 20:16).



August 13 is International Left-Handers Day.





## Shake Off the (Space) Dust

**ON DAY FOUR** of creation week about 6,000 years ago, God created the sun, moon, stars, planets, and meteoroids in outer space. These meteoroids bump into each other and break up into tiny particles that float into earth's atmosphere and fall to the ground.

Scientists believe that about 40–60 tons of space dust land on earth each day. That's the weight of about four school buses! The dust combines with tiny pieces of dirt, leaves, and dead skin cells on earth to form the specks that float through the air, coat our surfaces, and make us sneeze. That dust on your bookshelf? It likely includes a bit of outer space right in your home.



Dust off more facts  
about space, animals,  
the Bible, and lots  
more on the *Kids  
Answers* blog.





# YOUR BIG QUESTIONS

*Sam asks*

Is there land under all of Antarctica's ice?

**YES, THE CONTINENT** of Antarctica is made of rock, but about 98% of its land is covered in ice and snow. Antarctica is home to the largest and thickest sheets of ice on earth. The ice is nearly three miles thick in some spots!

Antarctica used to be part of a supercontinent that existed before the global flood. When the fountains of the deep burst open (Genesis 7:11), the supercontinent broke up into the separate continents and islands we see today.

After the global flood, the oceans were warmer, and the air temperatures were cooler. These conditions resulted in colder temperatures that caused the ice age. During the ice age, about one-third of earth's surface was covered in ice sheets and glaciers. Antarctica is still frozen over with ice because the continent receives little direct sunlight. Brrr!

*Arianna asks*

How did people translate the Bible into English?

**ABOUT 200 YEARS** before the birth of Christ, a king ruling over ancient Egypt hired men from Israel to translate the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek. Greek was one of the most common languages at the time, so many people could then read books like Genesis and learn how God created our world and promised to send the Savior.

After the resurrection of Jesus, Christians took copies of the Scriptures written in Greek and Hebrew and translated them into many different languages, including English hundreds of years later.



I'm **Lily**! You might know me from my Answers TV show *Lily's Lab*, where we ask questions and find answers.

Let's look at some big questions from kids like you!



*Zachariah asks*

Why did God create Satan as an angel when he knew he was going to do bad?

*Hope asks*

Why did Mary wipe her hair on Jesus' feet?

**THE ACCOUNT** of Mary wiping Jesus' feet with her hair comes from Luke 7:36–50.

In Jesus' time, there were no cars or paved roads to travel on. People wore sandals on their feet and walked on dirt paths that were probably very dusty or muddy. Think about how dirty your feet can get when you walk outside barefoot or in sandals!

In those days, washing someone's feet before a meal was a task that a servant completed.

Back then, woman's hair was considered her "glory" (something she would be admired for) (1 Corinthians 11:15). Mary was showing great humility when she used her hair as a towel to wipe Jesus' feet. She did not care what other people thought of her. She was showing how deeply she loved and worshipped Jesus.

**THE BIBLE** does not give us a direct answer to your question, but we can look to Scripture for clues.

Our first clue comes in the beginning. Genesis 1:31 tells us that during creation week, God created everything very good.

In his goodness, God created humans and angels with the ability to obey or disobey him. Sometime after creation week, some of the angels, including Satan, rebelled against God. God wants his creation to obey him, but because he is omniscient (knows everything), he was not surprised when Satan rebelled.

Our next clue comes from Colossians 1:16, which says, "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and *for* him" (emphasis added). The invisible thrones and dominions include Satan and the other angels who rebelled against God.

God created all things and people for himself, not for sin and death. But humans and some angels chose sin instead of choosing God. Because God is holy and must punish sin, one day Satan and all who rebel against God will be judged. But God had a perfect plan to redeem people who confess their sins and believe in him. He sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to pay the penalty for sin. Then he raised Jesus from the dead, victorious over sin and death.



**ASK US YOUR BIG QUESTIONS**

[KidsAnswers.org/magazine-questions](https://KidsAnswers.org/magazine-questions)

Kids Answers, PO Box 510, Hebron, KY 41048.





# ADVENTURE IN THE RUINS

*Join Eva and Andy Wander as they travel the world with their parents—Dad, a geologist, and Mom, a photographer—exploring the wonders of God’s creation.*

*by Laura Smetak  
art by David Leonard*

**Wanders in  
Creation is  
on Spotify!**



**ANDY LEAPED** over a mud puddle and pressed on rocks at the base of the ancient ruins. He was hoping to activate a secret passageway to find lost treasure. Eva stood by, twirling a pen between her fingers and studying the small group of people leaving the gift shop. She motioned for Andy to follow her inside.

The kids were waiting to tour the ruins of Machu Picchu, an ancient city in the mountains of Peru. On the flight to South America days earlier, the two had reread all three books in the Secret Digger Society series.

Now, Andy was hunting for hidden treasure, while Eva inspected the people they encountered. Together, they were planning to expose an evil plot to hide stolen artifacts somewhere on this very mountain.

Dad sat on a bench in the giftshop looking green. After riding the bus up a steep, curvy, mountain road and being delayed for over an hour by a small rockslide, the altitude got to him. He’d already barfed. Twice.

The only other people in the gift shop were Mom, the ticket agent, and Mr. Jones, an elderly man who walked with a cane.

*Mr. Jones*, Eva jotted in her notepad. *Harmless.*

"There just aren't any more tour group slots left today," the ticket agent told Mom. He held up a hand. "Hold on. Let me try one last thing." He picked up a walkie talkie.

*Ticket agent*, Eva wrote. *Friend?*

Andy peered over Eva's shoulder. "Whatta we got?"

"Still gathering intelligence," Eva replied.

Just then, a woman wearing a green tour-guide shirt and holding a walkie talkie huffed into the gift shop. She marched to the ticket agent, and they began whispering furiously.

"Andy." Eva nodded toward the suspicious conversation.

"On it!" Andy pulled up his hoodie and went into stealth mode, pretending to look at ponchos as he sneaked closer and closer. After a moment, he sped back to Eva.

"The ticket guy found a tour we can join!"

"Really?" Eva whipped her notepad back out. *Ticket agent = Friend.*

"But the tour-guide lady is not happy about it," Andy said. "She said her tour is already behind because of the rain, and she's not paid to babysit!" Andy clutched his heart. "Do you think she's part of the evil plot?"

Eva made another note. *Tour Guide = Bad guy?*

The woman in the green tour-guide shirt gathered the Wanders and Mr. Jones. "My name is Dr. Alessandra, and I usually give tours to archeologists only, but today, I will also have—you."

She looked at Mr. Jones's cane and Dad's green

face. "Everyone will have to keep up. No exceptions." She glared at Eva and Andy. "There will be no running or shouting—"

"Ma'am?" Andy raised his hand.

"—or straying off the path."

Andy tapped his pocket. "Is it okay if I bring—"

"This way!" Dr. Alessandra charged through the gift shop door, leading the Wanders and Mr. Jones to the small tour group awaiting her. She then led them into the ruins of Machu Picchu at breakneck speed.

Eva leaned toward her brother. "What were you trying to ask her about?"

Andy tapped his pocket again. "I have a cool photo prop from book two."

Eva paused. What could Andy possibly have from book two? Before she could ask, she noticed that Dad and Mr. Jones were struggling to keep up.

"This archeological site has over 3,000 stone steps." Dr. Alessandra pointed to a stone staircase.

"Dr. Alessandra?" Eva waved.

"Let's climb!" Dr. Alessandra called over her shoulder.

Andy scowled. "She didn't listen to you, either. She's

definitely one of the bad guys."

Mom was so busy taking photos, she didn't notice when Eva and Andy paused at the base of the stairs so Dad and Mr. Jones could catch up.

"You kids are missing the tour," Mr. Jones said.

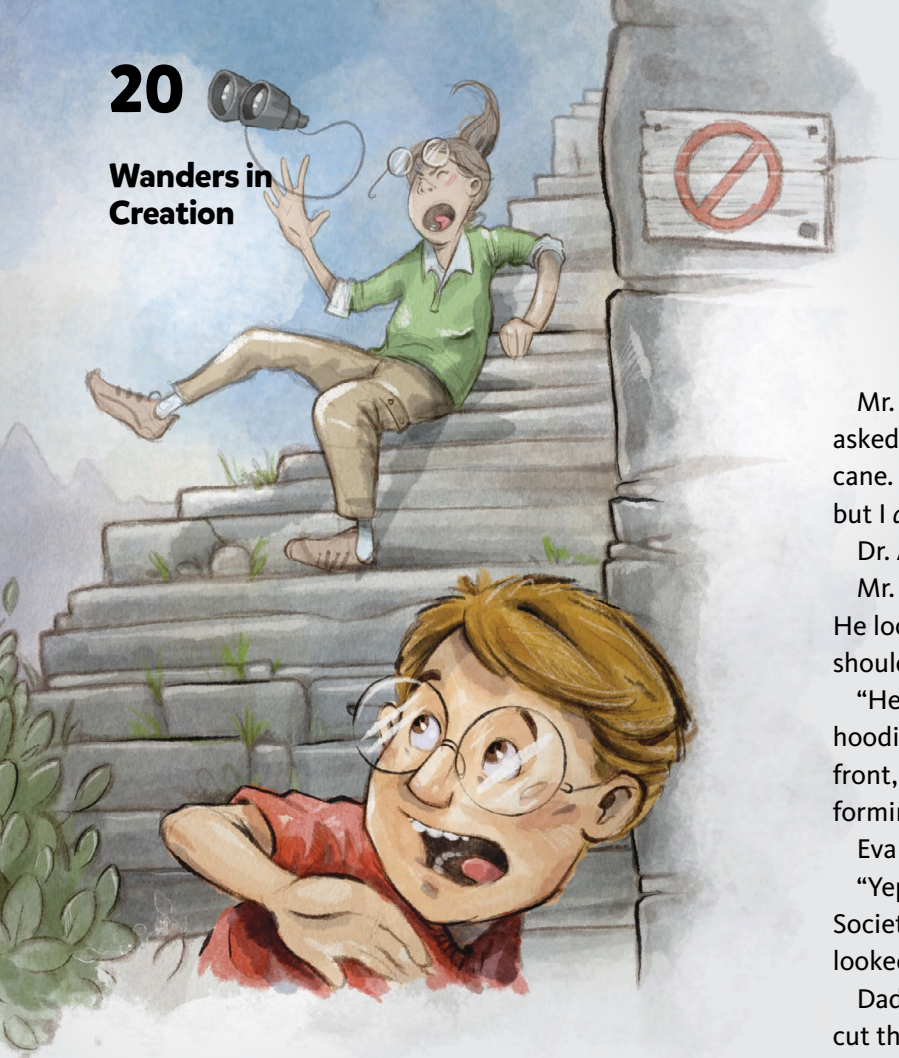
"Dr. Alessandra's going too fast," Eva said.

Dad chuckled weakly. "She's a speedy one, isn't she?"

"Careful." Andy pointed to patches of mud. "These steps are still wet from the rain."

## ***She led them into the ruins of Machu Picchu at breakneck speed.***





As they kept time with Mr. Jones' pace, Mom came back. "There you all are. Dr. Alessandra's waiting with the rest of the group—oh, never mind. Here she comes."

Dr. Alessandra was stomping down the stairs toward them in rage. "Tours must stay *together*! I can't *believe* I had to come all the way back down and—ugh!" She shrieked as her foot hit a slick patch of mud.

Mom hurried to Dr. Alessandra, who sat clutching her ankle.

Mr. Jones thumped up the steps. "May I?" he asked, pointing to Dr. Alessandra's foot with his cane. "I may not have a doctorate in archaeology, but I *am* a medical doctor."

Dr. Alessandra moaned, then nodded.

Mr. Jones inspected the injury. "It's a mild sprain." He looked at Dr. Alessandra sympathetically. "You should wrap it and ice it."

"Here." Andy reached into the pocket of his hoodie and tugged out a white pillowcase. On the front, he had painted a black shovel and pickax forming an X over a mountain. "Can you use this?"

Eva blinked. "Is that—"

"Yep! It's a flag with the crest of the Secret Digger Society. I made it from an old pillowcase! It would've looked so cool in our pictures."

Dad handed Andy his Swiss army knife, and Andy cut the pillowcase into strips for Mr. Jones to wrap Dr. Alessandra's ankle.

Eva leaned toward Mom. "Dr. Alessandra was so rude. She doesn't deserve their kindness."

Mom smiled. "But Jesus told us to love our neighbors, even the rude ones. All people are made in God's image and are precious to him."

Eva grabbed her notebook and wrote, *All People = Made in God's image.*

The men helped Dr. Alessandra to her feet, and Mr. Jones handed her his cane. "I guess now *everyone* will have to take it slow." He winked at her. "No exceptions."

**What's the Point?** Old or young, sick or healthy, rich or poor, fast or slow, educated or not, every life is precious because we are all uniquely made in God's image (Genesis 1:27). As his image bearers, we need to treat all humans with dignity and respect, even those who are different from us.



Machu Picchu is located in southern Peru.

# Hands-Down Hilarious!

*We asked for jokes, and we have to HAND it to you: you have a firm GRIP on humor! These get a big THUMBS-up from us! Use the key to crack the hand codes and solve the riddles.*



1. *from Ezra L.*

What does a tree say when it  
doesn't know what to do?



2. *from Esther G.*

## What do dogs wear to bed?



3. *from Joel N.*

What do you get when you cross a dinosaur and a pig?



4. *from Joel N.*

What do you call a dancing sheep?



5. *from Ellie B.*

What do you call a cow lying down?



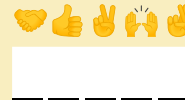
6. *from Odelia E.*

What did the astronaut say as he was being pushed in a crowd?



8. *from Brooklyn K.*

What is a farmer's favorite salad dressing?



## KEY

A = 🤔 M = 🙌  
B = 🙌 N = 🙌  
C = 🙌 O = 🙌  
D = 🙌 P = 🙌  
E = 🙌 Q = 🙌  
F = 🙌 R = 🙌  
G = 🙌 S = 🙌  
H = 🙌 T = 🙌  
I = 🙌 U = 🙌  
J = 🙌 W = 🙌  
K = 🙌 Y = 🙌  
L = 🙌 Z = 🙌



# TRUTH OR TALES?

by Tez Brooks

*Mice love cheese.*

*Toads give you warts.*

*Ostriches bury their  
heads. Are these*

*"facts" truth or myth?*

**H**ave you ever shared information and then found out you were wrong? How embarrassing!

Sometimes people come up with wrong ideas. And sometimes those ideas spread. Before we had computers, curious people had to go to a library or find an encyclopedia to research facts. Today, we often use the internet to research. Unfortunately, since anyone can add information to the web, the internet is filled with opinions and theories instead of evidence and proof. We must evaluate what we read, listen to, and watch and make sure the information is true.

Whether you hear a false idea like molecules-to-man evolution or read a fun fact online, it's always a good idea to fact-check information to avoid spreading anything that isn't true.

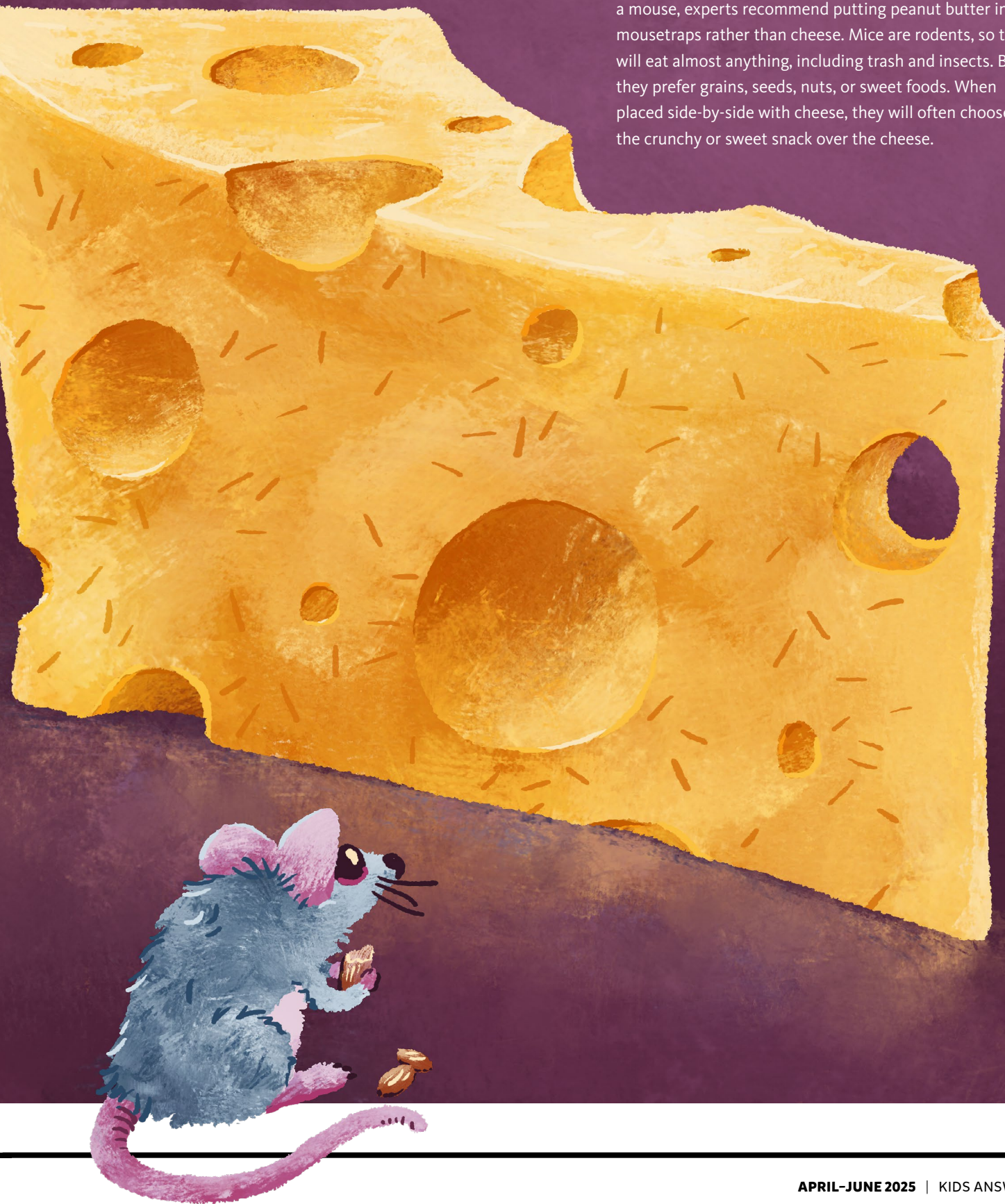
Did you know there are many animal "facts" that just aren't true? Here are a few animal myths to get your fact-checking started!



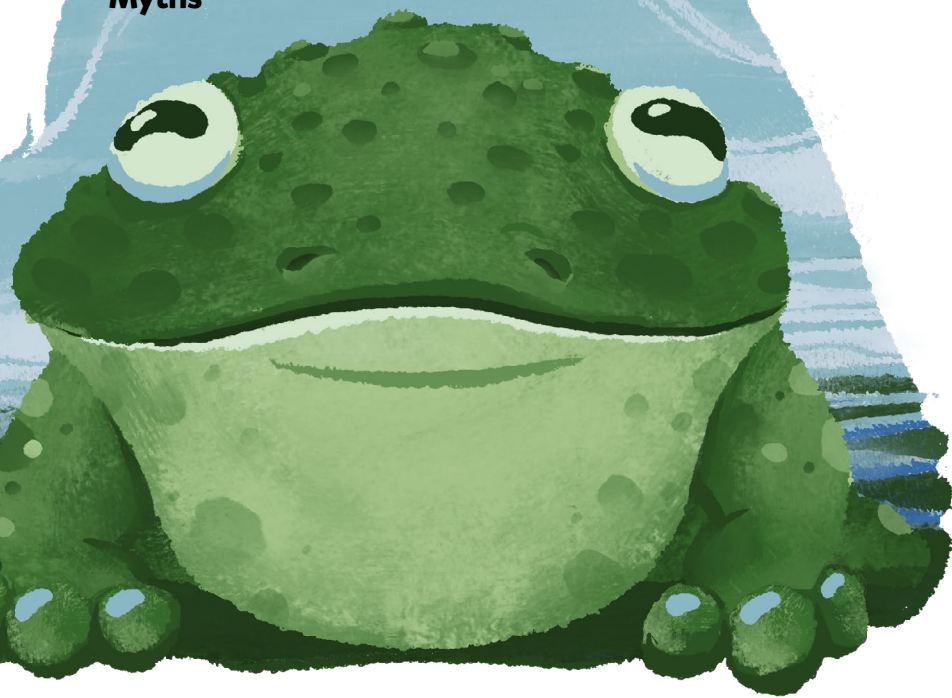
## Do mice love cheese?

**MICE HAVE A REPUTATION** for loving cheese, but cheese is actually not their favorite food. In fact, if you're trying to catch

a mouse, experts recommend putting peanut butter in mousetraps rather than cheese. Mice are rodents, so they will eat almost anything, including trash and insects. But they prefer grains, seeds, nuts, or sweet foods. When placed side-by-side with cheese, they will often choose the crunchy or sweet snack over the cheese.







## Do toads give you warts?

**HAVE YOU EVER** been told not to hold toads because they'll give you warts? That's just a myth. Hundreds of years ago, people thought a toad's bumpy skin was covered in warts. They worried that the warts were contagious. But those bumps aren't warts at all! They are glands on the toad's back that secrete substances like mucus to moisten and protect their skin. Many toads secrete poison to make them taste bad to predators.

## DO OSTRICHES BURY THEIR HEADS?

**FRIGHTENED OSTRICHES** will bury their heads in the sand—or so the legend goes. That myth might have started because ostriches lie flat in tall savannah grass, leaving only the humps of their bodies visible.

Ostriches don't need to hide by burying their heads. At 350 pounds, they have the ability to run up to 43 miles per hour. Their powerful legs can send a lion flying with one powerful kick!



## Do wolf packs always have an alpha?

**THIS MYTH** came from studying wolves in human care, where several unrelated wolves were placed together in one habitat. One of the wolves tends to take charge to help everyone get along.

In the wild, however, most wolf packs are made of a father, mother, and their pups. The group may also include some adult offspring and other relatives that have not yet headed out on their own. Much like human families, the father and mother are in charge because they are the parents of the rest of the pack. Some aunts and uncles may also join, making several leading wolf pairs.

Can you figure it out?



Research and discover for yourself if these things are True or False.

1. **Bats are blind.**  
☐ true ☐ false
2. **Crocodiles can survive in the ocean.**  
☐ true ☐ false
3. **An elephant never forgets.**  
☐ true ☐ false
4. **All bees sting.**  
☐ true ☐ false
5. **Sharks are attracted to human blood.**  
☐ true ☐ false

# DO ELEPHANTS HAVE GRAVEYARDS?

**EXPLORERS LOVE** a good story, and tales about elephant graveyards were once popular tales.

People would often find the remains of dead elephants close together in a small area. This finding led to the idea that the creatures would go to special plots of land to die so their family could visit the graveyard and see their dead loved one.

It's now known that elephants don't purposely go to a special place to die. Studies showed that "graveyards" often resulted from a family of elephants drinking from water holes that were too salty or poisoned by natural causes. When other elephants accidentally passed by the location, they would explore the bones out of curiosity. The Creator made elephants very intelligent. They do grieve or seem sad or lonely when a fellow elephant dies, but they do not have graveyards.





SHHH



## IF YOU TOUCH A BABY BIRD, WILL THE MOTHER ABANDON HER CHICK?

**IT'S A MYTH** that a mother bird will abandon her nest if she smells a human. Some birds have a poor sense of smell, so they probably won't even know that you've been around their nests. Rather than scent, mother birds use visual (sight) and aural (sound) clues to identify their nests and chicks and to spot danger.



## Do animals change into other kinds?

**LIKE THESE ANIMAL MYTHS**, molecules-to-man evolutionary ideas are built on partial truth or what people think might be true.

Evolutionists teach that a single-celled organism evolved into humans over billions of years. But Genesis 1 tells us God created animals and people on days five and six during creation week.

It's true that changes within kinds can happen. For example, when God created the dog kind, he didn't create Dalmatians and Chihuahuas. Those dogs descended from the original dog kind created on day six of creation week.

The changes we see in animals are only within the same created kinds. In other words, a catfish may adapt to slither across the grass to reach another pond, but it will never become a land-dwelling lizard—it will always be a catfish.



Doing something different or looking like another species isn't proof of molecules-to-man evolution. After all, some creatures just behave in similar ways because they have the same Designer.

It's important to remember that science consists mostly of theories and hypotheses (hi-PAH-thuh-sees) rather than facts. A scientific hypothesis is an educated guess. A scientific theory is a collection of hypotheses and observations that have been tested and repeated enough to give a good explanation of how things work. The idea of molecules-to-man evolution has never been tested or repeated. More importantly, it goes against the truth of God's Word.

## Be a Truth Teller!

So how can we know what's true and what's myth? We go back to God's Word and God's world. The Bible sets us straight about things like creation, our sin, and the salvation that we can receive through Jesus. We are imperfect sinners, but God is perfect, and everything he says is truth.

If we become truth seekers, we can be truth speakers. When we start with God's Word, we can look at God's world with the right perspective. Don't stop asking questions and checking ideas against God's Word!



art by Brian Weaver



Pickax

Lighting

## Hop To It

Frogs and toads make up the largest group of amphibians on earth. Can you find all the items hidden in this picture?



Crown

Ice Cream

Envelope



Fish

Popsicle

Umbrella

Comb

Peanut

Paper Clip

Bowling Pin

Canoe

Baseball Bat



Pizza

Boomerang

Glove



16 Froggy Friends



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Many of the antibiotics we use when we're sick come from soil bacteria.

One tablespoon of soil can be home to billions of microscopic organisms.

Some studies suggest that about half of all species on earth live in soil.

MANY DIFFERENT LIVING THINGS CALL SOIL HOME, INCLUDING EARTHWORMS, BACTERIA, AND MANY MICROSCOPIC ORGANISMS.

Soil comes in different colors, including dark brown, red, yellow, gray, white, and even blue and green. The colors come from the oxygen, iron, clays, and other elements in or missing from the soil.

Around 95% of the world's food is produced from soil.

There are many types of soil, including chalky, silty, and loamy.

Soil provides important minerals for plant growth. When you eat the fruits and vegetables from those plants, you get their calcium, phosphorus, iron, magnesium, copper, and zinc.

As they move through the earth, earthworms aerate (give oxygen to) the soil.

## Super Soil

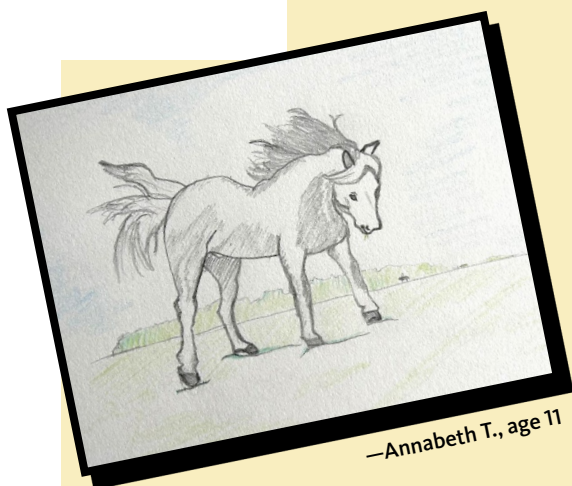
Soil is more than just dirt. It is a collection of decaying plants and animals, minerals, air, water, and living organisms like bacteria. God designed soil as part of his provision for life on earth.

World Soil Day is celebrated on December 5 each year.

OVER ONE MILLION EARTHWORMS CAN LIVE IN JUST ONE ACRE OF SOIL.





Show  
& Tell

—Annabeth T., age 11



—Kasen E.

It was a sunny day when I went to the zoo,  
Walking, talking, playing with you.  
We see koalas and a monkey—  
God's creation just amazes me!  
We stopped for an ice pop,  
and watched the joey hop,  
The rain's steady *drip drop*.  
What a great day at the zoo,  
With God's wonders all around us!  
Can we go again tomorrow?

—Faith S.



—Nihith





—Beau R., age 7



—Hannah H., age 11



—Landon, age 11



—Evelynn K., age 9



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